



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913

PH (517) 373.7670 | FAX (517) 373.5958

www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/sanborn/

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CONTACT: Scott Ray
(517) 373-7670

2005 state budget agreements focus on job growth and economic stimulation while protecting core education funding

LANSING – Michigan will be in a better position to create jobs in the new economy because of the 2005 state budget agreements reached today in Lansing, said Sen. Alan Sanborn, R-Richmond Township.

“Our commitment to improving and diversifying Michigan’s economy continues in this budget agreement,” Sanborn said. “We’re helping stabilize the state budget without threatening job growth.”

The Senate Republicans pushed hard for passage of their JOBS Action Plan as a way to improve Michigan’s economic future. The five most recently signed GOP proposals offer tax incentives to small and mid-sized businesses that invest in job creation. They are the latest in a series of 54 bills signed in less than a year that are designed at spurring economic growth.

Besides serving as the Assistant President Pro Tempore of the Senate, Sanborn chairs the Economic Development, Small Business and Regulatory Reform Committee, which dealt with most of the JOBS Action Plan legislation.

Sanborn said Republicans also secured additional funding for Michigan’s fledgling life sciences industry, doubling it from \$15 million to \$30 million in 2005.

The agreement also keeps the state’s foundation aid payment to public schools at its current level of \$6,700 per pupil while ensuring growing school districts receive sufficient funding to meet increased demand.

“As our state continues its slow but accelerating economic recovery, we need to keep education a priority,” Sanborn said. “Our budget agreement does that.”

Legislators will put the final touches on the 2005 budget when they return to session on Sept. 8 and will finish before the next fiscal year starts on Oct. 1, 2004.

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